

CITY OF WEST HOLLYWOOD

Minutes of the Disabilities Advisory Board October 24, 2018 City Council Chambers

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mikie Friedman called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

A. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor John Duran led the pledge of allegiance.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Yola Dore, Joy Freiberg, Mikie Friedman, Danny Hang, David Nash, Roderick Renfrew, Anny Semonco, Louise Smith and Rick Watts

STAFF PRESENT: Joan Mithers, Derek Murray, David Giugni, and Kim Patterson

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda for the October 24, 2018 meeting was approved by the Board.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephanie Harker, resident, congratulated the awardees. She spoke about American Sign Language and requested an on-camera interpreter at televised meetings. She also spoke about Hart Park and accessibility.

Eric Jon Schmidt, resident, spoke about his sister who has muscular dystrophy and asked about the history of 24 Hour Fitness' service to the disabled community.

Michael Arrigo, former Board member, congratulated Yola Dore and Anny Semonco on their County Commission on Disability service awards, and acknowledged Suzanne Dietrich, former Board member, who passed away recently.

Francisco Valencia, resident, thanked the Board for inviting him to join in the celebration of Disabilities Awareness Month.

Marina Berkman, Director of the Comprehensive Service Center of Jewish Family Service, congratulated the awardees and thanked the Board for another year of successful work. She also introduced the new Disability Specialist, Kimberlee Marsh.

Josh Kurpies, on behalf of Assemblyman Richard Bloom, thanked the

Board for their service to people living with disabilities and to the community as a whole, and presented certificates for the honorees.

Stephanie Cohen, District Director to Supervisor Sheila Kuehl, was happy to honor Yola Dore and Anny Semonco at the County service award ceremony. She also congratulated the awardees on their recognition, presented certificates, and gave special thanks to Fire Stations 7 and 8.

Keith Kaplan, Chairperson of the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, thanked both the Board and the honorees for going above and beyond. He gave special thanks to Yola Dore for her service to the community.

2. CONSENT CALENDAR

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 26, 2018 meeting were approved by the Board..

3. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2018 DISABILITY SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATIONS

City Councilmembers, along with Disabilities Advisory Board Members, presented the 2018 Disability Service Awards:

- Business Award to 24 Hour Fitness
- Lovedy Brydon Differently Abled Individual Award to Elizabeth Savage
- Nonprofit Award to Los Angeles County Fire Department, Stations 7 and 8
- Media Award to NBC Los Angeles with a special recognition of Nicholas Kontaxis
- A special posthumous recognition was given to Rita Norton for her many years of dedicated service to the community. Her daughter, Marcy Norton, accepted on her behalf.

Genevieve Morrill, President and CEO of the Chamber of Commerce, spoke under Public Comment. She applauded the Board, the Council and the awardees for their outstanding service.

B. PRESENTATION FROM DR. CHARLES LIU ON TECHNOLOGY AND ADVANCEMENTS IN RESTORING NEUROLOGICAL FUNCTION

Dr. Liu, professor at the University of Southern California and Chair of Neurosurgery for Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center,

gave a fascinating PowerPoint presentation on developments in the field of neurorestoration to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

C. PRESENTATION FROM DR. JON PYNOOS ON HOME MODIFICATIONS TO HELP PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE INDEPENDENTLY

Dr. Pynoos, Professor of Gerontology at the University of Southern California and Director of the National Resource Center on Supportive Housing and Home Modification, gave an informative presentation, illustrating the do's and don'ts for creating a safe and accessible environment in the home.

D. ON-CALL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATE

Francisco Gomez, Transportation Program Administrator, made a presentation about the new on-call transportation service for senior and disabled community members that will replace the existing Taxi Subsidy Program.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

5. EXCLUDED CONSENT

None.

6. ITEMS FROM STAFF

Staff congratulated the awardees on their well-deserved recognition. They also thanked the Board for the productive year, and thanked the guest speakers for their valuable presentations.

Staff made the following announcements:

a) Saturday, November 10 from 10 AM – Noon: The AB1234 Ethics Training will be held in the West Hollywood Library Community Room. The training can also be completed online before December 31.

b) Wednesday, November 28 from 6-9 PM: The Boards and Commissions Annual Congress will be held in the West Hollywood Auditorium, followed by a presentation in the Council Chambers.

c) The Disabilities Advisory Board study session will be held on Wednesday, December 5 from 5-8 PM in Rooms 5 & 6 at Plummer Park.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Arrigo, former Board member, congratulated the Board on a great meeting and spoke about Rita Norton's important contributions to the City.

8. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

The Board members thanked their fellow Board members, City Council, and City staff for all of their work and support in helping to create a place where people with disabilities can flourish. They congratulated all of the awardees for their significant contributions to the disabled community.

Anny Semonco announced that on Tuesday, November 13, the Women's Advisory Board will hold their televised meeting. She specifically thanked Fire Station #8 for coming to her rescue on numerous occasions.

Rick Watts encouraged people to volunteer at any number of non-profit organizations.

Danny Hang thanked his family for attending, and urged everyone to vote.

David Nash spoke about how the City is the best place for people with disabilities, and made a few requests:

- 1) install 90" screens in the Council Chambers for those with low-vision;
- 2) find ways to project more visually-accessible images on the screen over the dais; and
- 3) add a crosswalk for residents at 980 Palm Avenue.

Vice-Chair Freiberg invited members of the community to participate in Board meetings.

Chair Mikie Friedman spoke of what an honor it is to be elected Chair of the Board. She stressed the importance of having handrails whenever there is an inclined surface. She announced that Uber and Lyft will be offering free rides to the polls on Tuesday, November 6.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Disabilities Advisory Board adjourned at 8:30 PM to its next special meeting/study session on **Wednesday, December 5, 2018** beginning at **5 PM in Rooms 5 & 6 at Plummer Park, 7377 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046**

APPROVED BY A MOTION OF THE DISABILITIES ADVISORY BOARD
ON THIS 24th DAY OF OCTOBER, 2018.



MIKIE FRIEDMAN,
CHAIRPERSON

ATTEST:



STAFF LIAISON

A copy of the audio recording of this meeting can be obtained from the City Clerk's office upon request.

(Disclaimer: Staff records the meetings for the sole purpose of composing the official meeting minutes; therefore the recordings are not of commercial quality.)